REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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RS/R FILES

Attention Mrs. Mallett

Keep this study together,

MAY 22 1966

S/S:RF G/PM

S/S

COPIE.

FROM 3/S TO

TOP SECRET

MICROFILMED BY S/S: CMS

Dear John:

Since speaking to you the tiner day I have had a chance to review the matter of the JSS SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY. Admirals Illouin and Calvert have been extremely helpful in filling in the background of this difficult question.

I believe the key issue involved here is the reaction we can anticipate in Japan to a discovery of this arrangement. I am particularly troubled by the effect that such a discovery might have on any renegotiation of the Security Treaty in 1970. While I appreciate the case that can perhaps be made that this arrangement is consistent with the understandings worked out with the Japanese in 1959, I do not believe that a technical legal argument of this type will go far toward mitigating the political problems if the arrangement is exposed through accident to the vessel or otherwise. For these reasons I suggest that we examine alternatives to the current arrangement and move to reduce this risk to our relations with Japan as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

/s/ U. Alexis Johnson

U. Alexis Johnson

The Honorable

John T McNaughton,

Assistant Secretary of Defense, Room 4E806, The Pentagon.

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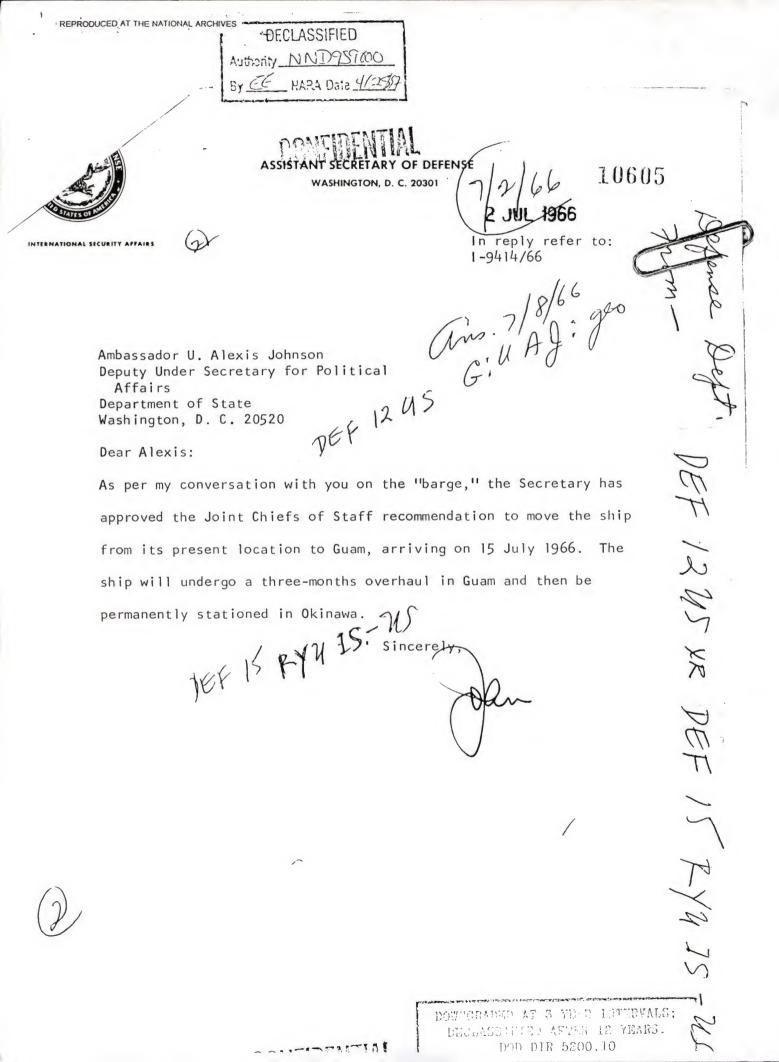
The Honorable

John T McNaughton,

Assistant Secretary of Defense, Room 4E806. The Pentagon.

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TOP SECRET





RETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

10605

In reply refer to:

Political GiuAJigoo

Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs

Department of State Washington, D. C. 20520

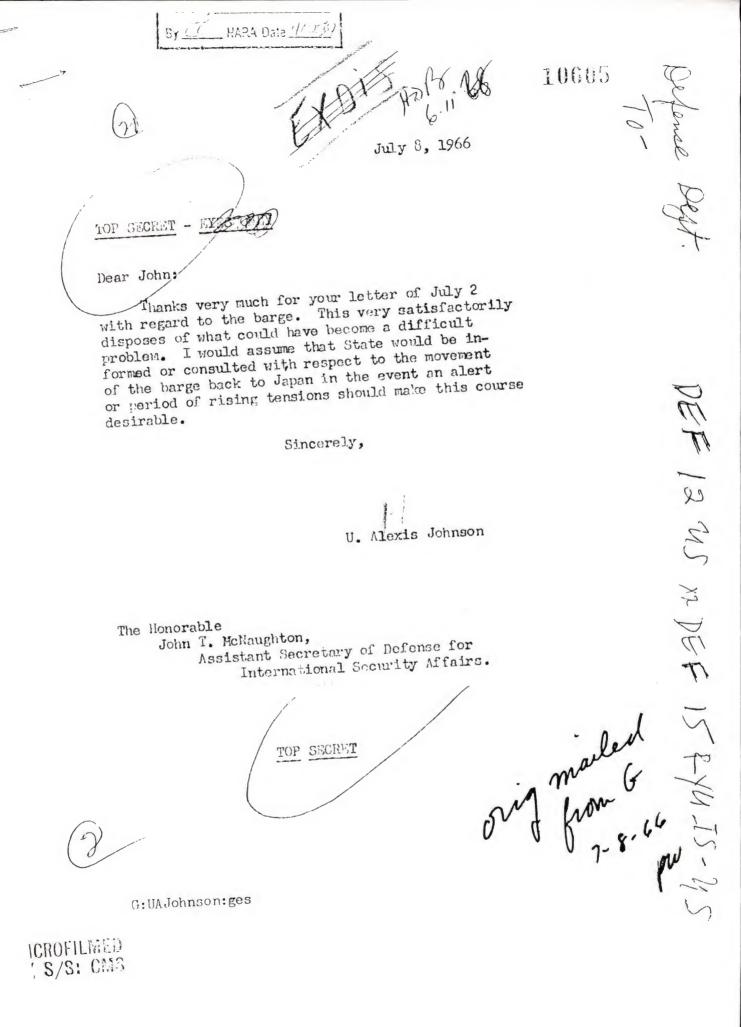
Dear Alexis:

As per my conversation with you on the "barge," the Secretary has approved the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommendation to move the ship from its present location to Guam, arriving on 15 July 1966. The ship will undergo a three-months overhaul in Guam and then be permanently stationed in Okinawa.

JEF 15 RYN 15- N) sincerely,

DEF 12 US XR

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 15100 10605 July 8, 1966 TOP SECRET Dear John: Thanks very much for your letter of July 2 with regard to the barge. This very satisfactorily disposes of what could have become a difficult problem. I would assume that State would be informed or consulted with respect to the movement DEF 12 W XX DEF 15 FX. of the barge back to Japan in the event an alert or period of rising tensions should make this course desirable. Sincerely, U. Alexis Johnson The Honorable John T. McHaughton, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. TOP SECRET G:UAJohnson:ges **ICROFILMED**

' S/S: CM3